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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM:



Director of Information Services

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SUBJECT: Call from Garfinkel re Church Papers

1 On 18 December 1984 Steve Garfinkel, Director, ISOO call to report on a phone call he had received from a N.Y.Times reporter on the Church paper:

a. Garfinkel was told that the paper has received calls from both Republican and Democrat Senators concerning the Executive Branch's efforts to review the Church papers for possible classified information, and that the senators believe that a major separation of powers issue is brewing. Moreover, the reporter passed on that the Senators expressed the view that the only reason CIA is pursuing the matter is because there may be material, while unclassified, that is embarrassing to the Agency. The reporter is thinking about writing a story.

b. Steve reports that he tried to put the matter in context for the reporter--our interest is to ensure that the Church papers do not contain national security information, that others with far less exposure to national security information than Sen. Church left holdings that in fact contained classified information, that it is nonsense to think that the files contain information that might be embarrassing because that information would have been released many years ago. Steve is not sure whether the story will be written or not.

2. Steve also received a phone call from a John Elliff, staff member of the SSCI, who used to be on Sen. Church's staff. He apparently was quite upset, "you are making a big deal out of nothing," why can't you take our word for that the papers do not contain classified information, Sen. Church was always very careful to protect classified information, etc. after some discussion of what is really behind the request that the Church papers be reviewed, Elliff calmed down. Garfinkel explained that all that is involved is for someone to look at the material as a precaution, and that it appeared that someone else, not he Garfinkel, was making a big deal out of nothing. Nothing more came of this conversation.

3. I told Steve that I would discuss his phone call with others back here and would get back to him. I reported to the DDA and then to Mr. Briggs. Briggs will contact Rob Simmons, SSCI, to find out what is going on and will get back to me.

4. Briggs called back to report that he had talked with Gary Chase who expressed surprise at the information. He had not heard a murmur about the Church paper and doubted very much that any Senators had contacted the newspaper. Nonetheless, he advised that we play it straight, express what our interest really is, that there can be no separation of power issue because we had referred the matter to our oversight committees seeking their advice, and continue to play low key, as the matter really warrants. So reported to the DDA and to Garfinkel.



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Chuck:

1. When I sent you the "Church Papers" press release and the index last week I was not quick enough to remember another document of direct relevancy.

2. Attached is a copy of Senator Church's deed of papers to Boise State University. Please note paragraph 5 at the bottom of page 2 of the deed. I think you could reasonably argue that the Senator put this deliberately in the deed to protect classified material known to exist in his papers. I think we could also argue that by the language he used he meant for Boise State to comply with procedures of law or executive order governing the handling of classified material.

3. I still don't know what the big deal is.



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Attachment:

Senator Church's Deed of Papers